

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00072 261345Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 844

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 72

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: FOUR CATHOLICS SHOT IN BELFAST AS REPUBLICANS FEUD

REF: BELFAST 69

1. TWO MEN SHOT AND KILLED BELFAST FEB. 25 AND TWO OTHERS WOUNDED. MOTIVE FOR EXECUTION-TYPE KILLING OF WORKER IN LUNCH HOUR IN FACTORY PROTESTANT AREA STILL UNKNOWN. HOWEVER IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY (IRSP) AND REPUBLICAN CLUBS WHICH POLITICAL ARM OF OFFICIAL IRA IN NORTH EXCHANGING CHARGES OF GUILT FOR OTHERS. OFFICIAL IRA MEMBER JOHN FOX FROM ANDERSONSTOWN KILLED IN DIVIS FLATS ATTACKS BY FOUR GUNMEN AND ONE OF TWO MEN SHOT IN LOWER FALLS AND BALLYMURPHY AREAS WAS REPUBLICAN CLUB MEMBER.

2. REPUBLICAN CLUB OFFICIAL MALACHY MC GURRAN AND BERNADETTE DEVLIN MC ALOSKEY MEMBER IRSP EXECUTIVE APPEARED ULSTER BBC TELEVISION EVENING FEB. 25 AND TRADED ALLEGATIONS ABOUT COMPLICITY IN ATTACKS. MC GURRAN STRESSED OFFICIAL IRA REFUSAL IN PAST BE DRAWN INTO TIT-FOR-TAT KILLINGS AND ACCUSED IRSP MEMBERS OF BOASTING ABOUT RANDOM SHOOTING PROTESTANTS IN RETALIATION FOR KILLING OF CATHOLICS. MC ALISKEY COUNTERED WITH CHARGES THAT MEMBERS IRSP BEING PUNISHED FOR BREAKING AWAY FROM OFFICIALS AND SHE DENIED

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PAGE 02 BELFAS 00072 261345Z

IRSP RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY SHOOTINGS. SHE ASKED FOR MEETING

OF FEUDING ORGANIZATIONS TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES.

3. IRSP IN BREAKING AWAY FROM OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT
DECEMBER 1974 (SEPARATE AIRGRAM) APPARENTLY TOOK GUNS AND
EXPLOSIVES FROM IRA ARMORIES. MC ALISKEY CLAIMED THESE HAD
BEEN RETURNED. PROSPECTS FOR RESOLUTION DIFFERENCES WITHOUT
MORE VIOLENCE UNLIKELY. HOWEVER IT ALSO UNLIKELY THAT
REPUBLICAN FEUD LIKELY ENDANGER GENERAL CEASEFIRE.
SPICER

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